

Long Term Care NEWSLETTER

Indiana State Department of Health

ISDH Long Term Care
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In Today's Issue:

- Holiday Schedule
- QMA Renewals
- AHRQ Update



ISDH Holiday Schedule

The Indiana State Department of Health will be closed for Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 27, and Friday, November 28. The offices will reopen at 8:15 a.m. on Monday, December 1.

QMA Certification Renewals

All Qualified Medication Aide (QMA) certifications will be expiring on March 31, 2009. Prior to the expiration of the certificate the QMA must:

1. obtain a minimum of six (6) hours of annual inservice education
2. submit to the Indiana State Department of Health a completed Qualified Medication Aide Record of Annual Inservice Education Form (SF51654); and
3. submit the \$10.00 fee

Additional instructions and the inservice form can be found at:

http://www.in.gov/isdh/files/QMA_Record_Annual_Inservice_Training.pdf .

All QMAs will receive a renewal notice by mail approximately 60 days prior to the expiration date. This notice will include instructions for online renewal.

AHRQ Update


The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is the health services research arm of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), complementing the biomedical research mission of its sister agency, the National Institutes of Health. AHRQ is a home to research centers that specialize in major areas of health care research such as quality improvement and patient safety, outcomes and effectiveness of care, clinical practice and technology assessment, and health care organization and delivery systems.

Nursing Home Survey on Patient Safety Culture

AHRQ has released the *Nursing Home Survey on Patient Safety Culture* to help nursing homes assess safety culture, track changes in resident safety over time, and evaluate the impact of safety interventions. The new evidence-based survey assesses nursing home staff opinions of patient safety culture in the nursing home. The survey is part of a toolkit that includes a user's guide that explains the survey process, and the survey materials. The survey measures 12 important dimensions related to resident safety culture, including communication openness, compliance with procedures, feedback and communication about incidents, handoffs, and nonpunitive response to mistakes. It is important to note that the survey was developed for use in nursing home facilities. It is not intended for use in assisted living, rehabilitation, community care, or independent living facilities. Select to access the [survey](#) and other toolkit materials. Free technical assistance for survey administration is available by sending an e-mail to safetyculturesurveys@ahrq.hhs.gov.

Patient Safety Organization (PSO) Final Rule

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a final rule for Patient Safety Organizations (PSOs), which is now available on the [AHRQ PSO Web site](#). The rule becomes effective on January 19, 2009, and provides final requirements and procedures for patient safety organizations. The organizations are new entities with which clinicians and health care providers can work to collect, aggregate and analyze data, within a legally secure environment of privilege and confidentiality protections, to identify and reduce patient care risks and hazards. As outlined in the Patient Safety Act, AHRQ administers provisions governing PSO operations, and HHS' Office for Civil Rights enforces the confidentiality provisions of the Act. Under interim guidance issued on October 8, AHRQ listed 15 PSOs that will maintain their status as PSOs during the remainder of the interim period and be required to comply with the final rule once it takes effect.



On this Thanksgiving Holiday, the Indiana State Department of Health thanks each of Indiana's health care facilities for providing healthcare excellence. We recognize the efforts required to ensure quality healthcare and appreciate the commitment to promoting public health. The Indiana State Department of Health also thanks the many healthcare professionals and caregivers in long term care for their dedication and contributions to the care and safety of Indiana's residents. We especially thank each of the residents and patients and their families for their lifelong contributions to our communities and wish them the best of health.

On behalf of all of us at the Indiana State Department of Health, Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family. Have a safe and healthy holiday.

Terry Whitson
Assistant Commissioner
Indiana State Department of Health